



# Parkinson Canada

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## REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Issued By

***Parkinson Canada***

**Graduate Student Award  
Basic Research Fellowship  
Clinical Research Fellowship  
Clinical Movement Disorder Fellowship**

**2023 - 2025 Cycle**

<b>Release Date:</b>	<b>November 14, 2022</b>
<b>Application Deadline (Online Receipt):</b>	<b>February 6, 2023 (11:59 PM EST)</b>
<b>Notifications of Award:</b>	<b>May 2023</b>
<b>Funding Start Date (Clinical Research Fellowship and Clinical Movement Disorder Fellowship):</b>	<b>July 2023</b>
<b>Funding Start Date (Graduate Student Award and Basic Research Fellowship):</b>	<b>August 2023</b>

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## INTRODUCTION

Parkinson Canada is committed to supporting the most advanced and/or highest quality of Parkinson's research in Canada. As such, the Parkinson Canada Research Program (the "Program") funds research relevant to the cure, cause, prevention, improved treatment and/or understanding of Parkinson's disease or related disorders.

As part of this Program, Parkinson Canada is pleased to announce a Request for Applications (RFA) to support promising young scientists and clinicians who either (i) conduct research studies with a sound scientific rationale and clear relevance for people with Parkinson's or related disorders or (ii) seek to acquire clinical training in the subspecialty of Movement disorders (which includes Parkinson's disease). This investment is part of a strategic initiative to encourage young scientists and clinicians to enter the field of Parkinson's research and promote the training and growth of these future international leaders in the area. It will also contribute to the overall goals of Parkinson Canada to ultimately improve the lives of people with Parkinson's disease and support a global initiative to create a world free of the disease.

Accordingly, Parkinson Canada encourages applications from biomedical, clinical, health services and systems research and population studies for the following awards and fellowships: (i) the Graduate Student Award (for PhD students), (ii) the Basic Research Fellowship (for clinicians and post-docs), (iii) the Clinical Research Fellowship (for clinicians training in movement disorders with an interest in conducting research), and (iv) the Clinical Movement Disorders Fellowship (for clinicians seeking further training in the diagnosis and treatment of Parkinson's and related movement disorders).

Herein, as part of this RFA, for each award and fellowship you will find information on (i) eligibility, (ii) terms and funding, (iii) the application procedure, (iv) and review criteria.

## **PARTNERSHIPS FOR TRAINING (TRAINEE) AWARDS**

Trainees residing in certain provinces may be eligible for Partnership Funding with the Agencies below:

### **FRQS and Parkinson Canada Partnership**

This program is a collaborative effort between Fonds de recherche du Québec – Santé (FRQS) and Parkinson Canada. It aims to increase the number of trainees who will be working on Parkinson's disease and related disorders in Quebec research facilities. FRQS will co-fund up to two highest ranking Quebec fellowship candidates from the Graduate Student Award, Basic Research and Clinical Research Fellowship trainee programs combined, who have been selected for funding in the Parkinson Canada competition, that have also met FRQS's required score for funding in the FRQS's training awards competition. The program offers up to two years of support with the possibility of renewal for a third year from FRQS. Stipends in this program for fellowship candidates are the same as that which is offered for Basic Research and Clinical Research Fellowships. The stipend for Doctoral candidates is \$20,000 per annum. The amount of funding available for the third year is based on eligibility for funding renewal in their third year as per regular FRQS competitions and is restricted to FRQS regular funding amounts. Please see [FRQS](#) funding guidelines for 2022-2024 amounts.

- ***Candidates for these FRQS funding opportunities must submit applications to both FRQS and to Parkinson Canada*** and must indicate that this has been done. Research supported under this Program must be carried out at a University or affiliated institutions including hospitals and research institutes, within the Province of Quebec.
- Any communication of research must acknowledge the support of Parkinson Canada and Fonds de recherche du Québec – Santé (FRSQ). Copies of the communications should be sent to Parkinson Canada as soon as they become available.

### **NBHRF AND Parkinson Canada Partnership Program Trainee Awards**

This program is a collaborative effort between New Brunswick Health Research Foundation (NBHRF) and Parkinson Canada. It aims to support health research in New Brunswick to ensure the development of research in the field of Parkinson's disease. The Parties seek to promote training and support for promising students. The Parties therefore agree to co-fund annually up to two awards to support fellows who have been selected for funding in the Parkinson Canada competition. The program offers two years of support. Stipends in this program for fellowship candidates are the same as that which are offered for the Basic Research and Clinical Research Fellowships.

- **Candidates for the Parkinson Canada/NBHRF funding opportunities must submit applications to Parkinson Canada only and indicate on their application that they wish to be considered for this partnership award.** Research under this Program must be carried out at a University or affiliated institutions including hospitals and research institutes, within the Province of New Brunswick.
- Any communication of research must acknowledge the support of Parkinson Canada and New Brunswick Health Research Foundation (NBHRF). Copies of the communications should be sent to Parkinson Canada as soon as they become available.

### **SHRF and Parkinson Canada partnership program trainee awards**

This program is a collaborative effort between the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (SHRF) and Parkinson Canada. It aims to increase the number of trainees who will be working on Parkinson's disease and related disorders in Saskatchewan research facilities. SHRF will co-fund up to two highest ranking Saskatchewan fellowship candidates from the Basic Research Fellowship trainee program, who have been selected for funding in the Parkinson Canada competition, that have also met SHRF's required score for funding in the SHRF's training awards competition. The program offers up to two years of support. Stipends in this program for fellowship candidates are the same as that which is offered for the Basic Research fellowships plus a \$5,000 research supplement. Please see the [SHRF](#) funding guidelines for 2022-2024 information.

- **Candidates for the SHRF/Parkinson Canada funding opportunities must submit applications to both SHRF and to Parkinson Canada** and must indicate in their Parkinson Canada application that they would like to be considered for this partnership. Research supported under this Program must be carried out at a University or affiliated institutions including hospitals and research institutes, within the Province of Saskatchewan.
- Any communication of research must acknowledge the support of Parkinson Canada and Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (SHRF). Copies of the communications should be sent to Parkinson Canada as soon as they become available.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

Eligibility criteria for each award is outlined in the applicable sections.

Applications for training awards will be accepted from individuals from a broad spectrum of health-related communities and sectors, including, but not limited to, researchers, scholars and health professionals who meet the appropriate criteria for funding for the respective award.

At this time, fellowships are offered for biomedical research/clinical training only.

## **REVIEW PROCESS**

The review of applications for research grants and training awards submitted to Parkinson Canada will be completed by the Parkinson Canada Scientific Advisory Council (SAC) through a peer review process. People affected by Parkinson's Disease will also be involved and will review the non-scientific aspects of the application as Lived Experience Expert Reviewers. The peer review function of the SAC is a cornerstone of Parkinson Canada's research program and provides for the highest quality of objective adjudication.

Upon completion of the review, Parkinson Canada will notify each applicant of the status of their funding and provide the feedback on their application from the SAC.

## **REVIEW CRITERIA**

The principal consideration used to evaluate applications is research excellence potential and relevance of the proposed research or training to Parkinson's disease. There may be additional criteria that may be considered by the Advisory Council in the evaluation process. These will be outlined in each RFA.

## GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD

### BACKGROUND

Parkinson Canada is pleased to offer its graduate student award program (the “Program”) as a strategic initiative to encourage promising young scientists to enter the field of Parkinson's research and to invest in research training that offers promise for future work in the area of Parkinson's disease.

Through this initiative, Parkinson Canada thus invites studentship applications (“Applications”) from those currently enrolled in a PhD program committed to conducting research relevant to the cure, cause, prevention, improved treatment and/or understanding of Parkinson's disease or related disorders.

Overall, this initiative is consistent with, and reflects, Parkinson Canada's commitment to support innovation and renewal in the national Parkinson's research field and to foster international leadership potential in this area.

### ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for the Graduate Student Award the applicant must:

1. Be enrolled full-time in a graduate study research training program at the doctoral level.
2. Propose to continue their training or conduct research with an “Approved Institution” located in Canada. An “Approved Institution” includes:
  - Canadian post-secondary institutions and their affiliated institutions, including hospitals and research institutes; or
  - Other organizations, as determined by the Research and Clinical Advisory Committee of the National Board of Parkinson Canada in consultation with the Advisory Council, provided that the applicant's research or research-related activities fall within the mandate of Parkinson Canada.
3. Train under a Supervisor who holds a faculty appointment from an “Approved Institution”. The Supervisor should be an investigator actively directing research either in the field of Parkinson's disease or working in a highly relevant discipline and must be able to provide the successful applicant with a strong training environment. Other training locations may be considered by the Advisory Council, provided that the facility is an “Approved Institution” and the research or research-related activities conducted at such location falls within the mandate of Parkinson Canada.
4. Be a Canadian citizen or an international student proposing to train at an “Approved Institution” located in Canada and who fulfill the criteria for a student visa.

The applicant will not be considered for this competition if:

1. The applicant is currently funded by Parkinson Canada



2. The applicant has pending final reports from a Parkinson Canada grant or award

## TERM AND FUNDING

\$10,000 per year for two years.

## PARKINSON CANADA/FONDS DE RECHERCHE DU QUÉBEC – SANTÉ (FRQS) PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

For candidates submitting applications to be considered for the Parkinson Canada/FRQS Partnership Program, funding amounts are \$20,000 per annum for Doctoral level candidates. Additionally, Doctoral candidates who are funded under this agreement are eligible for funding in their third year as per regular FRQS competitions. The amount of funding available for the third year is restricted to FRQS regular funding amounts. ***Candidates for the Parkinson Canada /FRSQ funding opportunity must submit applications to both FRSQ and to Parkinson Canada*** and must indicate that this has been done. Research supported under this Program must be carried out at a University or affiliated institutions including hospitals and research institutes, within the Province of Quebec.

## APPLICATION PROCEDURES

### To Apply:

To apply for the Graduate Student Award, Parkinson Canada uses an online portal, called **SurveyMonkey Apply** (SMAApply), for application submissions and review. Complete applications are submitted digitally through the Parkinson Canada online application system located on the Parkinson Canada website at <https://parkinsoncan.smapply.io/> no later than **February 6, 2023 (11:59 pm EST)**.

Some general guidelines to apply:

1. Create an SMAApply account.
2. Register or Log In to SMAApply.
3. Once logged in, click on the "View Awards" button and you will be directed to a menu of available awards.
4. Click on the "Apply Now" button beside the appropriate application.
5. Complete the forms and requests and click "submit".

## Application for Graduate Student Award Requirements:

- Project Summary, stating in 200 words or less, the scientific or clinical question being asked, how you will address it, the expected outcome and the likely impact for Parkinson's disease.
- A non-scientific summary (in 500 words or less) of the project to be reviewed by people affected by Parkinson's who will serve as Lived Experience Expert reviewers. The summary should include a description of the issue the research project is addressing, what will be done during the project, and how this work has the potential to impact the lives of people with Parkinson's (i.e., help us understand the underlying cause of the disease, lead to new treatments, etc.).
- Project Narrative (**1 page**) including:
  - The hypothesis to be tested, the specific aims of the research and the approach that will be used to test them.
  - Describe the candidate's role in the project.
  - Justify the relevance to Parkinson's disease.
- Curriculum vitae (CV), including a summary of any postgraduate experience, listing of any honours and awards, listing of any publications where the applicant has participated as a co-author, first author, sole author, etc. (please specify), including the number of papers, number of book chapters, and number of abstracts, and whether these are published or in press. Include a listing of all current and pending funding support. Also include an explanation for any interruption in the applicant's academic career (4 page maximum);
- Academic Transcripts:
  - An up-to-date original or certified copy of transcript(s) of the applicant's academic record must be included. Transcripts must be issued by the Registrar's Office, scanned and uploaded. Transcripts printed from the candidate's personal university account are not considered to be official. Copies may be certified by the proposed supervisor, department head, or notary public. Foreign transcripts **MUST** be accompanied by a certified English or French interpretation and a clear explanation of the grading system.
  - International candidates are encouraged to obtain official conversions of their grades to GPA by their institute.
- Three (3) letters of reference/support:
  - The supervisor's statement of support can be used as one letter.
  - Letters of reference should highlight the applicant's strengths as they relate to suitability/experience in research (e.g., originality, technical ability, demonstrated skills, judgment, critical skills etc.).
  - For international candidates, sponsors are encouraged to comment on the grades and/or class ranking of the candidate within the content of their letters.
- Signature of the supervisor (agreeing to supplement award if possible, and of an authorized signing official of the applicant's host institution.

In addition to the foregoing, the applicant should arrange for his or her proposed supervisor to prepare the following information:

- Letter of support from supervisor.
- Training environment form completed and submitted by proposed supervisor outlining the proposed training program, including details of time allocation, publications of supervisor and supervisory experience, as well as a statement from the prospective supervisor(s) describing the training environment and the collaborative milieu, including the responsibilities to be assumed, the teaching to be provided and the research project to be undertaken.
- Supervisor's CV (using the Parkinson Canada biographical form).

Relevant support materials are limited to literature references. Any information submitted in addition to this will not be forwarded with the application to the Scientific Advisory Council for review.

## **REVIEW PROCESS AND CRITERIA**

Applications submitted to Parkinson Canada will be subject to peer review by Parkinson's Canada Scientific Advisory Council based in accordance with the review criteria below.

- **CANDIDATE:**
  - Academic record
  - Research experience
  - Letters of reference/support
- **SUPERVISOR/ENVIRONMENT:**
  - Supervisor's research track record
  - Training environment
- **PROJECT:**
  - Relevance to Parkinson's disease
  - Overall impression of project

Applications are reviewed on an individual basis and as such, candidates will be evaluated on the stage of their research experience.

In addition to the above criteria, all applications will also be reviewed with respect to the adequacy of the proposed protection of humans, animals, or of the environment, to the extent that they may be adversely affected by the project proposed in the application. The Advisory Council will also examine the provisions for the protection of human subjects (if any) and the safety of the research environment.

Where a trainee and supervisor are submitting an application to the same competition, trainees submitting their own proposal (not identical to the proposal submitted by their supervisor) will be given priority ranking.

One other component of the grant review process will include assessment from individuals with lived experience with Parkinson's who will be part of the grant review committee. Lived Experience Expert Reviews will provide feedback about each proposal based on the following criteria:

1. Could the outcomes of the project have an impact on the Parkinson's community? Does the proposed project address an area of concern for people affected by Parkinson's?
2. Was the Non-Scientific Summary easy to understand for a non-scientific audience?
3. Are the relevance and impact of the proposed study clearly outlined in the Non-Scientific Summary?

## **BASIC RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP**

### **BACKGROUND**

Parkinson Canada is pleased to offer its Basic Research Fellowship program (the “Program”) as a strategic initiative to encourage promising young scientists to enter the field of Parkinson's research and to invest in research training that offers promise for future work in the area of Parkinson's disease. Through this initiative, Parkinson Canada invites fellowship applications (“Applications”) from applicants committed to conducting research relevant to the cure, cause, prevention, improved treatment and/or understanding of Parkinson's disease or related disorders. This initiative is consistent with, and reflects, Parkinson Canada's commitment to support innovation and renewal in the national Parkinson's research field and to foster international leadership potential in this area.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

To be eligible for the Basic Research Fellowship, the applicant must:

1. Hold a doctoral degree (MD or PhD) obtained in the last 5 years and be graduates of a university recognized by Parkinson Canada. Note: post MD research fellowships may be made available to provide support for specialized training in the research aspects of the broad field of Parkinson's disease. Post MD applicants must be licensed to practice in Canada or should have a Canadian educational license. MD degree holders may register in a graduate program leading to the MSc degree or the PhD degree.
2. Be a Canadian citizen who proposes to continue their training or conduct research with an “Approved Institution” located inside or outside of Canada OR be an international applicant proposing to train at an Approved Institution located in Canada. These include:
  - Canadian post-secondary institutions and their affiliated institutions, including hospitals and research institutes; or
  - Other organizations, as determined by the Research and Clinical Advisory Committee of the National Board of Parkinson Canada in consultation with the Advisory Council, provided that the applicant's research or research-related activities fall within the mandate of Parkinson Canada.
3. Propose to train under a Supervisor who holds a faculty appointment from an “Approved Institution” in Canada. The Supervisor should be an investigator actively directing research either in the field of Parkinson's disease or working in a highly relevant discipline and must be able to provide the successful applicant with a strong training environment. Other training locations may be considered by the Advisory Council, provided that the facility is an Approved Institution and the research or research-related activities conducted at such location falls within the mandate of Parkinson Canada.

The applicant will not be considered for this competition if:

1. They are currently funded by Parkinson Canada.
2. They have pending final reports from a Parkinson Canada grant or award.

## TERM AND FUNDING

Clinician scientist (MD) candidates are eligible for funding in the amount of \$50,000 per year over a two-year term. Based on years of research training experience, post-doctoral (PhD) candidates with two years or less experience in research are eligible for funding in the amount of \$40,000 and those with more than two years' experience are eligible for funding in the amount of \$50,000.

Post-doctoral (PhD) candidates	Award Amount
Years of research or clinical training experience	
0-2	\$40,000
> 2	\$50,000
Clinician scientist (MD) candidates	Award Amount
Basic Amount	\$50,000

For candidates submitting applications to the Parkinson Canada/Fonds de recherche du Québec – Santé FRQS Partnership Program, the program offers up to two years of support with the possibility of renewal for a third year from FRQS. Stipends in this program for fellowship candidates are the same as that which is offered for Basic Research and Clinical Research Fellowships. The amount of funding available for the third year is based on eligibility for funding renewal in their third year as per regular FRQS competitions and is restricted to [FRQS](#) regular funding amounts.

***Candidates for the Parkinson Canada/FRQS funding opportunity must submit applications to both FRSQ and to Parkinson Canada.*** Research supported under this Program must be carried out at a University or affiliated institutions including hospitals and research institutes, within the Province of Quebec.

***Candidates for the Parkinson Canada/NBHRF funding opportunities must submit applications to Parkinson Canada only and indicate on their application that they wish to be considered for this partnership award.*** Research under this Program must be carried out at a University or affiliated institutions including hospitals and research institutes, within the Province of New Brunswick. Stipends in this program for fellowship candidates are the same as that which are offered for Basic Research and Clinical Research Fellowships.

**Candidates for the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (SHRF)/Parkinson Canada funding opportunities must submit applications to both SHRF and to Parkinson Canada** and must indicate in their Parkinson Canada application that they would like to be considered for this partnership. Stipends in this program for fellowship candidates are the same as that which is offered for the Basic Research fellowships plus a \$5,000 research supplement. Research supported under this Program must be carried out at a University or affiliated institutions including hospitals and research institutes, within the Province of Saskatchewan ([SHRF](#)).

## APPLICATION PROCEDURES

### To Apply:

To apply for the Basic Research Fellowship, Parkinson Canada uses an online portal, called **SurveyMonkey Apply** (SMAApply), for application submissions and review. Complete applications are submitted digitally through the Parkinson Canada online application system located on the Parkinson Canada website at <https://parkinsoncan.smapply.io/> no later than **February 6, 2023 (11:59 pm EST)**.

Some general guidelines to apply:

1. Create an SMAApply account.
2. Register or Log In to SMAApply.
3. Once logged in, click on the "View Awards" button and you will be directed to a menu of available awards.
4. Click on the "Apply Now" button beside the appropriate application.
5. Complete the forms and requests and click "submit".

### Applications for Basic Research Fellowships Requirements:

- Project Summary (maximum 600 words/ 1 page) (**To save space, you do not need to include basic information, such as the description of Parkinson's disease.**)
- A non-scientific summary (in 500 words or less) of the project to be reviewed by people affected by Parkinson's who will serve as Lived Experience Expert reviewers. The summary should include a description of the issue the research project is addressing, what will be done during the project, and how this work has the potential to impact the lives of people with Parkinson's (i.e., help us understand the underlying cause of the disease, lead to new treatments, etc.).
- Project Narrative (**three (3) pages\*** - page amounts are suggestions only) including:
  - Background rationale (1 page)
  - Specific aims and training goals (1/2 page)
  - Details of proposed study, including methods and procedures (1 page)

- Statement describing relevance of proposed studies to Parkinson's (1/2 page)

\*The three-page limit applies only to the project narrative and does not include references, biographical information, ethical approvals or other support documents.

- Curriculum vitae (CV), including a summary of any postgraduate experience, listing of any honours and awards, listing of any publications where the applicant has participated as a co-author, first author, sole author, etc. (please specify), including the number of papers, number of book chapters, and number of abstracts, and whether these are published or in press. Include a listing of all current and pending funding support (4 page maximum).
- An explanation of any interruption in the applicant's academic career.
- Assessment Forms of Candidates for a Fellowship completed by two (2) sponsors. Sponsors should be recent supervisors familiar with the applicant.
- Relevant and reasonable support materials, including but not limited to photographs, tables, figures, literature references, and letters of collaboration, appendices, and a maximum of three (3) publications may be included.
- Signature of an authorized signing official of the applicant's host institution.

In addition to the foregoing, the applicant should arrange for his or her proposed supervisor to prepare the following information:

- Letter of support from supervisor.
- Summary submitted by proposed supervisor outlining the proposed training program, including details of time allocation, publications of supervisor and supervisory experience, as well as a statement from the prospective supervisor(s) describing the training environment and the collaborative milieu, including the responsibilities to be assumed, the teaching to be provided and the research project to be undertaken.
- Supervisor's biographical information (using the Parkinson Canada 4 page biographical sketch form).

## **REVIEW PROCESS AND CRITERIA**

Applications submitted to Parkinson Canada will be subject to peer review by Parkinson's Canada Scientific Advisory Council based in accordance with the review criteria below.

- Does the applicant show promise of significantly advancing research in the area of Parkinson's disease? Is the applicant appropriately trained and well suited to enter into this work? Is the work proposed appropriate to the experience level of the applicant? Is this project relevant to pursuing a greater understanding of Parkinson's for the applicant?
- Is the research that the applicant will be involved in of high quality? Are the conceptual framework, design, methods, and analyses of the proposed project/area of study adequately developed, well integrated, and appropriate? Does it contribute to Canada's leadership potential in Parkinson's knowledge in that field? Where does this work position itself in relation to world knowledge of Parkinson's at this time?



- Is the project or project supervisor positioned to build significantly on the existing strengths of the individual researcher? Does the work stretch the experience and professional knowledge of the applicant?
- Is the scientific environment in which the work will be done likely to contribute to the applicant's learning? Is there evidence of institutional support of the training program?

In addition to the above criteria, all applications will also be reviewed with respect to the adequacy of the proposed protection of humans, animals, or of the environment, to the extent that they may be adversely affected by the project proposed in the application. The Advisory Council will also examine the provisions for the protection of human subjects (if any) and the safety of the research environment.

A component of the grant review process will include assessment from individuals with lived experience with Parkinson's who will be part of the grant review committee. Lived Experience Expert Reviews will provide feedback about each proposal based on the following criteria:

1. Could the outcomes of the project have an impact on the Parkinson's community? Does the proposed project address an area of concern for people affected by Parkinson's?
2. Was the Non-Scientific Summary easy to understand for a non-scientific audience?
3. Are the relevance and impact of the proposed study clearly outlined in the Non-Scientific Summary?

Where a trainee and supervisor are submitting an application to the same competition, trainees submitting their own proposal (not identical to the proposal submitted by their supervisor) will be given priority ranking.

## CLINICAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

### BACKGROUND

Parkinson Canada is pleased to offer its clinical research fellowship program (the “Program”) as a strategic initiative to encourage promising young scientists to enter the field of Parkinson's clinical research and to invest in research training that offers promise for future work in the area of Parkinson's Disease. Through this initiative, Parkinson Canada thus invites fellowship applications from applicants committed to conducting research relevant to the cure, cause, prevention, improved treatment and/or understanding of Parkinson's disease or related disorders. This initiative is consistent with, and reflects, Parkinson Canada's commitment to support innovation and renewal in the national Parkinson's research field and to foster international leadership potential in this area. Funds awarded under the Program are to be used to cover salary, benefits and expenses for clinical research fellowships in Parkinson's-related areas.

### ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for the Clinical Research Fellowship, the applicant must:

1. Hold a degree (MD) in medicine, with specialty training experience in either clinical neurology or neurosurgery.
2. Have obtained their degree and completed training at a university recognized by Parkinson Canada.
3. Be currently training at an “Approved Institution” which includes:
  - Canadian Medical College or Canadian post-secondary institutions and their affiliated institutions including hospitals and research institutes; or
  - Other organizations, as determined by the Research and Clinical Advisory Committee of the Board of Directors of Parkinson Canada in consultation with the Advisory Council, provided that the applicant's research or research-related activities fall within the mandate of Parkinson Canada.
  - **Candidates for the Parkinson Canada/FRSQ funding opportunity must submit applications to both FRSQ and to Parkinson Canada** and must indicate that this has been done. Research supported under this Program must be carried out at a university or affiliated institutions including hospitals and research institutes, within the Province of Quebec.

Note: Applicants proposing to train at an Approved Institution located outside Canada will be considered eligible to participate in the Program, provided that they are committed to returning to Canada to pursue their career following completion of the two-year term of the Program. Submission of an application under these conditions is deemed to be a binding pledge, and successful applicants will be required to enter into a funding agreement with Parkinson Canada to this effect.

4. Propose to train under an Approved Supervisor. The Approved Supervisor is one who holds a faculty appointment and is a leader in the development of a Parkinson's program, actively directing research in the field of Parkinson's disease. The Approved Supervisor must be able to provide a strong training environment for the applicant in an academic health sciences centre with a well-established Parkinson's program in movement disorders. Other training locations may be considered by the Advisory Council, provided that the facility is an Approved Institution, and the clinical research or clinical research-related activities fall within the mandate of the Program.
5. Be licensed to practice in Canada or should have a Canadian educational license.

Note: International applicants are encouraged to apply; however, priority will be given to Canadian citizens and/or applicants intending to remain in or relocate to Canada to continue his or her career following completion of the two-year term of the fellowship.

The applicant will not be considered for this competition if:

1. They are currently funded by Parkinson Canada.
2. They have pending final reports from a Parkinson Canada grant or award.

#### **TERM AND FUNDING**

\$75,000 per year for two years.

#### **Parkinson Canada /Fonds de recherche du Québec – Santé FRQS Partnership Program**

For candidates submitting applications to the Parkinson Canada/Fonds de recherche du Québec – Santé FRQS Partnership Program, the program offers up to two years of support with the possibility of renewal for a third year from FRQS. Stipends in this program for fellowship candidates are the same as that which is offered for Basic Research and Clinical Research Fellowships. The amount of funding available for the third year is based on eligibility for funding renewal in their third year as per regular FRQS competitions and is restricted to FRQS regular funding amounts. Please see [FRQS](#) funding guidelines for 2023-2025 amounts.)

#### **APPLICATION PROCEDURES**

##### **To Apply:**

To apply for the Clinical Research Fellowship, Parkinson Canada uses an online portal, called **SurveyMonkey Apply** (SMApply), for application submissions and review. Complete applications are submitted digitally through the Parkinson Canada online application system located on the Parkinson Canada website at <https://parkinsoncan.smapply.io/> no later than **February 6, 2023 (11:59 pm EST)**.

Some general guidelines to apply:

1. Create an SMAApply account.
2. Register or Log In to SMAApply.
3. Once logged in, click on the "View Awards" button and you will be directed to a menu of available awards.
4. Click on the "Apply Now" button beside the appropriate application.
5. Complete the forms and requests and click "submit".

### **Applications for Clinical Research Fellowships Requirements:**

- A statement from the applicant expressing his/her interest in the field of Parkinson's, and his/her career goals and evidence of the applicant's commitment to Parkinson's disease. This statement should include the relevance of proposed training to the applicant's future career (1-2 pages);
- Project Summary (maximum 600 words/ 1 page) **(To save space, you do not need to include basic information such as the description of Parkinson's disease).**
- A non-scientific summary (in 500 words or less) of the project to be reviewed by people affected by Parkinson's who will serve as Lived Experience Expert reviewers. The summary should include a description of the issue the research project is addressing, what will be done during the project, and how this work has the potential to impact the lives of people with Parkinson's (i.e., help us understand the underlying cause of the disease, lead to new treatments, etc.).
- Project Narrative (three (3) pages\* - page amounts are suggestions only), including:
  - Background rationale (1 page)
  - Specific objectives and training goals (1/2 page)
  - Details of proposed study, including methods and procedures (1 page)
  - Statement describing relevance of proposed studies in Canada (1/2 page)\*The three page limit does not include references, biographical information, ethical approvals or other support documents.
- Curriculum vitae (CV), including a summary of any postgraduate experience, listing of any honours and awards, listing of any publications where the applicant has participated as a co-author, first author, sole author, etc. (please specify), including the number of papers, number of book chapters, and number of abstracts, and whether these are published or in press. Include a listing of all current and pending funding support- 4 page maximum);
- Official transcripts of the applicant's complete academic record to date, including degrees and specialty certifications. Foreign transcripts **MUST** be accompanied by a certified English or French interpretation and a clear explanation of the grading system.
- Assessment Forms of Candidates for a Fellowship completed by two (2) sponsors, accompanied by letters of support from each such sponsor. Sponsors should be recent supervisors from the program in which the applicant's specialty training was taken and

should include the director of the program in which the applicant's neurology or neurosurgery training was received.

- Relevant and reasonable support materials, including but not limited to photographs, tables, figures, literature references, letters of collaboration, appendices, and a maximum of three (3) publications may be included.
- Signature of an authorized signing official of the applicant's host institution.

In addition to the foregoing, the applicant should arrange for his or her proposed supervisor to prepare the following information:

- Supervisor's CV (using the Parkinson Canada biographical sketch form)
- Letter of support from the proposed supervisor
- Description of where research will be conducted and the resources available there (maximum 500 words)

## **REVIEW PROCESS AND CRITERIA**

Applications submitted to Parkinson Canada will be subject to peer-review by Parkinson's Canada Scientific Advisory Council based in accordance with the review criteria below.

Note that the application does not need to be strong in all categories to be judged likely to have major scientific or social impact and thus deserving of a high priority score. For example, an investigator may propose to carry out important work that by its nature is not innovative but is essential to expand knowledge and understanding of Parkinson's disease in a given field.

- Does the applicant show promise of significantly advancing clinical research in the area of Parkinson's disease? Is the applicant appropriately trained and well suited to enter into this work? Is the work proposed appropriate to the experience level of the applicant? Is this project relevant to pursuing a greater understanding of Parkinson's for the applicant?
- Is the research work that the applicant will be involved in of high quality? Are the applicant's conceptual framework, design, methods, and analyses of the proposed project/area of study adequately developed, well integrated, and appropriate? Does it contribute to Canada's leadership potential in Parkinson's knowledge in that field? Where does this work position itself in relation to world knowledge of Parkinson's at this time?
- Is the project or project supervisor positioned to build significantly on the existing strengths of the individual researcher? Does the work stretch the experience and professional knowledge of the applicant?
- Is the scientific environment in which the work will be done likely to contribute to the applicant's learning? Is there evidence of institutional support of the training program?

In addition to the above criteria all applications will also be reviewed with respect to the adequacy of the proposed protection of humans, animals, or of the environment, to the extent that they may be adversely affected by the project proposed in the application. The Advisory Council will also examine the provisions for the protection of human subjects (if any) and the safety of the research environment.

Where a trainee and supervisor are submitting an application to the same competition, trainees submitting their own proposal (not identical to the proposal submitted by their supervisor) will be given priority ranking.

A final component of the grant review process will include assessment from individuals with lived experience with Parkinson's who will be part of the grant review committee. Lived Experience Expert Reviews will provide feedback about each proposal based on the following criteria:

- Could the outcomes of the project have an impact on the Parkinson's community? Does the proposed project address an area of concern for people affected by Parkinson's? Was the Non-Scientific Summary easy to understand for a non-scientific audience?
- Are the relevance and impact of the proposed study clearly outlined in the Non-Scientific Summary?

## CLINICAL MOVEMENT DISORDER FELLOWSHIP

### BACKGROUND

Parkinson Canada is pleased to offer the Clinical Movement Disorders Fellowship (the “Program”) as a strategic initiative to encourage promising young clinicians to enter clinical training in the subspecialty of Movement Disorders, which will include Parkinson’s disease. The purpose of this post-residency training is to provide expertise in the diagnosis and management of Parkinson’s disease and may include other movement disorders. Clinical training is the largest component of this hands-on program (at least 80%) but could include an element of research. However, this application will be evaluated solely on the clinical component.

Parkinson Canada wishes to ensure that each Canadian with Parkinson’s receives appropriate medical expertise, drug treatment, continuous care, education, respect, dignity, help and hope. This Program is an important component of Parkinson Canada’s plan to achieve its goal of ensuring that these critical elements in the day-to-day management of Parkinson’s disease are accessible and available.

### ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for the Movement Disorder Fellowship, the applicant must:

1. Have completed a recognized postgraduate training program in Neurology or Neurosurgery before the start of the proposed post-graduate Movement Disorder program and be eligible to practice in Canada. Trainees must have successfully completed the Royal College of Physicians examinations in Neurology or Neurosurgery, or must show that they are eligible and have been approved by the Royal College to sit the examinations. In specific situations where application has been made to the Royal College and the applicant is waiting for response, Parkinson Canada’s Scientific Advisory Council (the “Advisory Council”) will consider such candidate as an exception.
2. Conduct training at an “Approved Institution” where the applicant is registered in a post-graduate training program. An “Approved Institution” includes:
  - A Canadian Medical College or Canadian Post-secondary institution and their affiliated institutions including hospitals and research institutes OR;
  - Other organizations, as determined by the Research and Clinical Advisory Committee of the board of directors of Parkinson Canada in consultation with the Advisory Council, on the condition that their research or research-related activity falls within the mandate of the Program.
3. Propose to train under an Approved Supervisor. The Approved Supervisor is one who is a leader in the development of a Parkinson’s program, active in both clinical care of, and clinical research into, Parkinson’s disease and providing a strong training environment in a movement disorders unit in an academic health sciences centre with a well-established

program in Parkinson's. The Parkinson's program should be one in which the collaboration of the agencies and disciplines necessary for care of and research into Parkinson's is well-established. Other training locations may be considered by the Advisory Council.

The applicant will not be considered for this competition if:

1. They are currently funded by Parkinson Canada.
2. They have pending final reports from a Parkinson Canada grant or award.

## **TERM AND FUNDING**

\$75,000 for a one-year period.

## **APPLICATION PROCEDURES**

### **To Apply:**

To apply for the Clinical Movement Disorder Fellowship, Parkinson Canada uses an online portal, called **SurveyMonkey Apply** (SMAppl), for application submissions and review. Complete applications are submitted digitally through the Parkinson Canada online application system located on the Parkinson Canada website at <https://parkinsoncan.smapply.io/> no later than **February 6, 2023 (11:59 pm EST)**.

Some general guidelines to apply:

1. Create an SMAppl account.
2. Register or Log In to SMAppl.
3. Once logged in, click on the "View Awards" button and you will be directed to a menu of available awards.
4. Click on the "Apply Now" button beside the appropriate application.
5. Complete the forms and requests and click "submit".

### **Applications for Clinical Movement Disorder Fellowships Requirements:**

- A statement from the candidate expressing his/her interest in the field of Parkinson's, career goals and demonstrating evidence of commitment to Parkinson's disease. This should include the relevance of proposed training to future career (1-2 pages)
- If applicable, a project summary of fellowship work (maximum 600 words). **(To save space, you do not need to include basic information, such as the description of Parkinson's disease).**



- If applicable, a non-scientific summary (in 500 words or less) of the project to be reviewed by people affected by Parkinson's who will serve as Lived Experience Expert reviewers. The summary should include a description of the issue the research project is addressing, what will be done during the project, and how this work has the potential to impact the lives of people with Parkinson's (i.e., help us understand the underlying cause of the disease, lead to new treatments, etc.).
- Curriculum vitae (CV), including a summary of any postgraduate experience, listing of any honours and awards, listing of any publications where the applicant has participated as a co-author, first author, sole author, etc. (please specify), including the number of papers, number of book chapters, and number of abstracts, and whether these are published or in press. Include a listing of all current and pending funding support; **4 page maximum**.
- Official transcripts of the applicant's university record, including all undergraduate medical and postgraduate studies (general undergraduate studies are not required and photocopies of all other transcripts are acceptable). Foreign transcripts **MUST** be accompanied by a certified English or French interpretation and a clear explanation of the grading system;
- Confidential letters of reference from two (2) professors or supervisors with whom the candidate has studied or worked. One of the referees should be the director of the program in which the candidate has taken the majority of his or her training.
- Signature of an authorized signing official of the applicant's host institution.

In addition to the foregoing, the applicant should arrange for their proposed supervisor to prepare the following information:

- Letter of support from the Movement Disorder Neurologist who will supervise the training where the applicant proposes to pursue the fellowship.
- The summary of the Training environment which outlines the proposed training program, including details of time allocation and publications of supervisor and supervisory experience. A Detailed description of the program should be included from the prospective supervisor describing the training environment and the collaborative milieu, including the clinical responsibilities to be assumed, the teaching to be provided and the research or other duties to be undertaken, as well as the proportion of time to be spent in each of these activities to account for 100% of the training time of the Fellowship period.
- Supervisor's biographical information (using the Parkinson Canada biographical sketch form)

An application in violation of these guidelines will be subject to disqualification at the discretion of the Advisory Council Chair.

## **REVIEW PROCESS AND CRITERIA**

Applications submitted to Parkinson Canada will be subject to peer-review by Parkinson's Canada Scientific Advisory Council based in accordance with the review criteria below.

### **Academic competence**

- Honours/awards achieved
- Scholastic achievement
- Continuing education workshops, conferences, courses attended
- Does the applicant show promise of significant clinical advancement in Movement Disorders?
- Is the applicant appropriately trained and well suited to enter into this work?
- Is the work proposed appropriate to the experience level of the applicant?
- Is this project relevant to pursuing a greater understanding of Parkinson's and Movement Disorders for the applicant?

### **Clinical competence in Parkinson's disease and related Movement Disorders**

- Variety of time in settings
- Length of time in settings
- Evidence of building, career growth
- Evidence of clinical practice, clinical teaching
- Evidence of maintaining own clinical competence
- Where has candidate worked?
- What setting and what service?
- What role/responsibilities were held?
- Nature of work with patients with Parkinson's Disease and families
- Do Parkinson's disease and Movement Disorder-related activities to date demonstrate a sustained interest in Parkinson's and related Movement Disorders?
- Professional and public contribution

### **Quality and relevance of proposed program of study**

- Reputation of graduate program in general
- Reputation of school/facility in general
- Plans for obtaining experience in Parkinson's/Movement Disorders
- Faculty members and/or resource personnel that would contribute to their learning
- How will the program prepare the individual clinically?
- How does the program match with the individual's career goals?
- Will the program selected provide a good base or preparation for career plans?
- Is the supervisor positioned to build significantly on the existing strengths of the individual clinician? Does the work stretch the experience and professional knowledge of the applicant?

- Is the environment in which the work will be done likely to contribute to the applicant's learning? Is there evidence of institutional support of the training program?

**Potential to make a contribution to clinical care of those living with Parkinson's and related Movement Disorders upon completion of training**

- Potential to contribute to care for individuals/families
- Potential to add to our knowledge base
- Potential for leadership in clinical care of Parkinson's Disease and related Movement Disorders in any/all of a) Clinical medicine, b) Teaching or c) Research
- Previous contributions to the work of Parkinson Canada

**Intention of candidate to remain in Canada upon Completion of Fellowship**

- Expressed intention that candidate will return to/continue to practise in Canada following completion of training

If applicable, a component of the grant review process will include assessment from individuals with lived experience with Parkinson's who will be part of the grant review committee. Lived Experience Expert Reviews will provide feedback about each proposal based on the following criteria:

1. Could the outcomes of the project have an impact on the Parkinson's community? Does the proposed project address an area of concern for people affected by Parkinson's?
2. Was the Non-Scientific Summary easy to understand for a non-scientific audience?
3. Are the relevance and impact of the proposed study clearly outlined in the non-scientific summary?

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR ALL AWARDS**

**Applicants do not need to courier any documents to Parkinson Canada; however, we do ask that you keep the original signed documents which may be requested in the event that your application is successful in the competition.**

**Applicants should use a minimum font size of 12 point, black ink. Six lines per inch. One inch margin with no condensed type or spacing. References can be printed in smaller font; however they must be legible.**

Incomplete applications or applications received later than **February 6, 2023 (11:59 pm EST)** will not be considered **under any circumstances.**

## **TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR ALL AWARDS**

This Request for Applications made by Parkinson Canada is subject to the terms and conditions (the [“Terms and Conditions”](#)) which the applicant shall be deemed to have accepted upon submission to Parkinson Canada of an Application to participate in the Program. Failure to comply with the Terms and Conditions may result, in addition to any other remedies Parkinson Canada may have at law, in termination of the Program and exclusion of the applicant from future grant and fellowship award competitions.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION FOR ALL AWARDS**

For additional information concerning the RFA please contact: [research@parkinson.ca](mailto:research@parkinson.ca) or refer to <https://www.parkinson.ca/research/apply-for-funding/>